

same gentle, half-deprecating air. Such an aspect is not quite unfamiliar; we meet with it now & then in courtly old gentlemen & gentlewomen, in whom is yet preserved some sweetness of their youth. And is it not the style of the charmingly mannered persons in the old novels, in the pleasant domestic tales which make the ways of our grandmothers familiar to us? I have myself seen Charles Howard have looked, while holding gentle converse with his Good Aunt. This 'rosebud garden of girls' may have sallied forth for an airing after a morning's work in Hannah More's School-room; they are merry enough, but brave, ~~perhaps~~ there is no abandon of attitude; propriety is not lost sight of for a moment. With such a gentle regard much Miss Austen & Miss Edgeworth's people have met your eye, & with just such modest dignity must they have borne themselves.

The aggressive manners formerly shewn but poorly beside the pleasing repose of this former style. Is it that character also has deteriorated, that men & women assert themselves in a restless way because they no longer have worth to attract to them the comfortable esteem of their neighbours? Disloyal thought, for ~~we~~ we set our face to our generation to believe that in some way at least we are better than our fathers. And this falling off may it not be merely because manners are no longer held in high repute as an art, ^{careful} ~~and~~ instruction in which should be a principal part of ed.

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education? Our grandmothers were tutored
how to sit, to stand, how to walk & to
speak, how to comport themselves toward
their elders & betters, their inferiors & equals.
They were taught to be solicitous of the
good opinion of high & low. Were she but
taken to a toy-shop, what would the saleswoman
think of her? was a question wherein she to
conform to the little girl who forgot herself
& behaved unbecomingly. What would the parents
by think if she raised her voice in the street?
What would uncle or aunt think of the boy
who did not look his friends in the face
to make reply, respectfully & promptly? The
children of that generation were never suffered
to forget that to be pleasing to every one, ^{they must take ~~unbecomingly~~ pains} ~~was~~ ^{was}
reward & praises reflect upon their effort
than the approval to be earned from strangers
or friend by becoming behaviour. In order
that they might please, children were
instructed to be observant, & attentive
in rendering little services; to be courteous
in speech, & humble in demeanour. In
deed, this was natural, for as all men
were competent to reward him with appro-
bation, so would all men come to be
regarded by the child as his betters, to
be addressed with a certain diffidence
& deference. And not only the grown up
people, but his companions, the children
he played with, were erected into the
child's formidable critics. Now good
opinion it was well to conciliate by pious

behaviors.

128p4m123

4

What an unnatural system? says a mother.
Children have faults enough now, but ~~at~~
~~least~~ they don't do everything for effect
not trouble themselves as to whether others
think well or ill of them; they act upon
their own sweet natural impulses, &
no quality is so charming ^{in a child} as this
spontaneousness. ~~in a child~~. Well,
according to the shewing of their own
propensities, I suppose it must be conceded
that the dear grandmothers were not quite
natural in company. They took civil
pains to turn the best side out; they did
not yawn in each other's faces, nor loll in
public, nor allow conversations to drop
because they were too ^{indolent} ~~lazy~~ to keep it up.
They ^{were careful} ~~took pains~~ to ^{entertain} ~~entertain~~ themselves.
Lammas their friends, without consulting
their own humours; no doubt. They
brought up their children aces to this sort of
futile social hypocrisy. But it may
not be altogether a bad thing thus to turn
the best side out; good qualities strengthen
in the sun air, & to make a child always
show his best side may end in his having
^{no} ~~more~~ ^{left} ~~nothing~~ ^{to display} ~~to conceal~~. When we & they are
perfect beings, we may let our children &
natural, ~~that is, do what they like; rather than~~
^{follow only their own inclinations;}
what they ought, now, alas! the child who is allowed
to develop himself ^{in his own way}, takes no pains to please
others or to restrain himself, & grows up uncouth in
manner.

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Self-regardful in action.

No doubt the true order of things should be

"^{low} Noble manners, as the flower
And native growth of noble mind."

The result of the sensitive tact which perceives
that gives pleasure or pain to another, & the
high moral sense which ^{recognizes} ~~perceives~~ duty in
all small kindly observances: there are
the manners of the ^{better} ~~higher~~ order of beings,
^{who are graced with} ~~the~~ refinement & gentleness.

But, for the rest of the world, there is some-
thing to be said in favour of merely required
manners. I think how offensive is the
child or youth who has never been trained
in habits of politeness; how unblushingly
he disregards ~~the conventions~~ ^{more} ~~the~~ the comfort
the wishes of ~~every one~~ ^{about him} ~~but himself~~; you
will find him in the easiest chair in the
room, in the coziest corner, at table, his
preferences all understood, ~~they are~~
for any moral more clearly than the deaf
finds its way to his plate; he contrives the
family movements, an early or a late
dinner, a long walk or no walk, there are
settled to further some plan of his. He
is fertile in plans. This constant habit
preparing himself leads him to think
slightingly or not at all of other people;
he shows no veneration, little active
respect; & ~~becomes~~ ^{being} ~~is~~ too much self-
occupied to figure to himself the pleasures
or the pains, the desires or the disappointments
of the people he lives with. He is incapable of
sympathy. And yet he ~~very~~ showy
good nature about matters which do not affect
him.

he has generous impulses,
personally, ^{exhibiting} ~~his~~ qualities ~~of~~
which serve to make him popular. He was
not born a churl, but has become ~~so~~ because
he was not brought-up in wholesome ^{world's} ~~of the~~ ^{and}
of the ~~censure~~; ~~of the world~~, he has no peer
to offend. Little desire to please; he thinks
'anything becomes him.'

The extraordinary thing is, that the motive
of maternal vanity alone should not cause
mothers to make their children agreeable
to other people. Parents delight in the praise
of their children, yet allow them to
behave in a way which must provoke
censure. "Johnny, don't tease Mrs. R. dog."
But Johnny goes on dragging the
visitors ^{helpless} ~~about~~ by its ears & tail;
the little dog yelps, conversation is
interrupted; his mother again desires
Johnny to 'stop teasing the dog'; but
to no effect; the call proves as short one,
& Mrs. R. remarks to the next friend
she meets, how shockingly the R.s bring
up their children! Mrs. R. herself
manages otherwise; she is often heard
to ~~remark~~ ^{say} that she never allows her
children to disobey her; & her system
of home rule is worth our attention. Callers
are announced while the children are
in the drawing-room. "Children, you
may run into the garden & play for half
an hour." "O mamma, dear, do let-
us stay here in the window-niche; we
shall not disturb you in the least." "Very
well."

28p70m33.

well, you may stay, but - you must make
no noise." But the fun in the 'window
nick' grows fast & furious, & the ladies
cannot make themselves heard. "Go out
at once, children, this is not your place."
"It let us stay this once, Mamma, &
we will promise to be so quiet!" The
same sort of thing is ^{again} repeated, but still
the children remain, & the noise continues.
The visitors ~~leave a hasty~~ retreat, & as they
leave the house, one lady remarks to
the other, "How completely Mrs. R. allows
her children to manage her!" "Yes, & I
always imagined hers was such a firm
rule, you know she often says she never
allows her children to disobey her."
"That may be, but it is because she always
gives them leave to do as they wish;
the children are quite up to the situation;
they beg in a coaxing way to be allowed
to do what their mother ^{may} has just forbidden,
& they get leave; they disobey with permission."
"Even that is better than no show of
obedience at all." "I am not sure of that;
this; mother & children are deceived by
this pretence, & no ^{real} efforts are made
to secure the actual thing. It is
pretty enough to hear children coax
their parents, but I doubt if it is a good
sign; - & soon, until the friends knock
at another door.

Such streams as these show which way
the stream flows, & that children are not
brought up as they used to be. Indeed, to
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Dear Young People Mothers & Daughters in Council.

"It would did not concern itself much about our bringing up in my day, but now, there is no escape from the Education Question; the journals are full of it; people talk of little else; improving buildings, Board Schools, or High Schools rise on all hands, improving young persons correct our old-fashioned ideas with voluntary economy."

"Well, Mother, what do you think fit all? You can judge better than we who live in the midst of this educational whirl. That it is not altogether 'Whirr! Whirr! all by itself! - Whirr! Whirr! all by steam!' - that a very real movement is going on, ~~your~~ ^{your} ~~education~~ ^{education} ~~alone~~ ^{alone} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~your~~ ^{your} ~~own~~ ^{own} ~~children~~ ^{children} ~~will~~ ^{will} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~convinced~~ ^{convinced} you. You see them devote themselves to school work as men do to the business of life; they are admirably taught & would not willingly neglect a preparation or miss a lesson. Full of purpose & effort; they are engrossed with affairs that show as little to do with, as with their father's office business; & yet, believe, they miss much that the boys & I had in our home training. They, dear Mother, appear to have engaged with